

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIVISION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as you know, July 20th marked the 40th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. At this time, the need for reunification becomes even more apparent.

Although negotiations between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots have been occurring since 2008, the two sides have been unable to reach an agreement that would reunite the country. Both sides must come to the table and discuss key status issues, including the right to return, future governance structures, and the citizenship status of Turkish settlers. As a member of the European Union, a united Cyprus can act as a stable and democratic strategic partner for the United States in a volatile region.

Unfortunately, while these unsuccessful negotiations have been taking place, many Greek Cypriots face continued discrimination and obstruction. A number of Greek Cypriots have been unable to return to their homes in northern Cyprus, and their property is often illegally confiscated and sold without their consent. They live in fear of the Turkish military troops that still occupy the island and are unable to determine the fate of those who have been missing since the 1974 division. Greek Cypriots are denied access to religious sites and a number of important sites have been looted and destroyed. The discovery of gas fields off the coast of the island has been complicated due to territorial disputes between the communities. It is unlikely these issues will be resolved unless a final resolution is agreed upon by both sides.

In February, with help from the United States, the negotiation proceeded when leaders of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots reached an agreement regarding the language of the "joint declaration," which identifies the goals both sides hoped to reach by the end of the negotiations. Negotiations have resumed since the "joint declaration" was established and must continue until there is a consensus on the final status of the island.

Vice President Joe Biden's visit to Cyprus in May underscored U.S. support for negotiations and the importance of Cyprus as a key partner in the region. The United States must uphold its commitment to helping the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots reach an agreement regarding the reunification of their country. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing continued support for the people of Cyprus as negotiations continue.

IRAQI CHRISTIANS DRIVEN OUT OF MOSUL

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, we have learned that radical militants—the Islamic State terror group ISIS—are systematically targeting Christians in Iraq.

Ten years ago, there were 60,000 Christians in the city of Mosul.

Today there are none.

Through violence, slaughter, and intimidation, the Christians have been murdered or driven out of the city—simply because they are Christians.

In a civilized world, we cannot let this stand.

The United States of America cannot and should not try to solve every world problem.

But when we withdraw completely, we leave a vacuum of leadership—and bad people will do bad things if given the opportunity.

I join with my colleagues in condemning these atrocious actions.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS DOUGHERTY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2014

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments and life of Dennis Dougherty who passed away last February at the age of 70. As his friends and loved ones gather to celebrate his life, he deserves our recognition as a distinguished veteran, businessman, community leader, advocate and philanthropist.

Dennis was dedicated to improving life for so many through both local and national politics as well as community organizations. He had a profound impact on countless lives, particularly on the young people of Colorado, and he was the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2005 Equality in Business Award from the Human Rights Campaign and the Matthew Shepard Foundation's Essential Peace Award.

Born in 1943 in Omaha, Nebraska, Dennis was drafted to fight in Vietnam at the age of 21. As a proud veteran and patriot, he led the charge for progress in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community, and his influence was a guiding force for public policy and opinion. He testified before Congress on the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and he mentored several young men who served in the armed forces.

Dennis relocated to Denver after his service in the military. He was the founder and CEO of the technology company Visual Electronics. His business success gave him the means to become a generous philanthropist, contributing to causes that ranged from disabled skiers to homeless youth. Moved by the story of Matthew Shepard, the gay college student who was tortured and killed near Laramie, Wyoming, Dennis became a major supporter and board member of the foundation started on Matthew's behalf. An unwavering and unapologetic voice in the community as an openly gay veteran, Dennis wanted to fight against the challenges he faced in his youth.

Dennis had a heart of gold. Every year he cleaned out his closet to donate to an organization that helped homeless vets get back on their feet. He always felt that a good suit gave them a better shot at a new start. In each jacket he put a note that read "someone loves you."

I am one of those lucky enough to call Dennis a friend as well. I know and have worked with numerous others who were touched by Dennis' efforts or encouragement in some

way, and many have gone on to do great things for our community. I have fond memories of the times he and I rode together in his pride and joy—his red convertible—in Denver parades.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Dennis Dougherty. Every day he fought to expand opportunity, equality and freedom. His determination sustained him through many challenges—with tremendous results for our community. He leaves behind a legacy of charity and compassion and serves as a role model for all who believe as he did: that "we are one tribe, y'all."

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, July 25, 2014 marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Legal Services Corporation, a private, nonprofit corporation tasked with ensuring equal justice for all Americans who are unable to afford legal representation. The creation of LSC was long-championed by President Richard Nixon who ultimately signed its enabling legislation on July 25, 1974 with bipartisan support from the Congress. Federally-funded, LSC awards grants to 134 local legal aid programs, with nearly 800 offices serving every congressional district and the U.S. territories.

LSC-funded legal aid programs provide vital civil legal assistance to the needy, including women seeking protection from domestic abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, seniors defending against consumer scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits.

Unfortunately, because of a decrease in its federal funding over the last several Congresses, LSC-funded programs have had to turn away more than 50 percent of eligible clients seeking assistance. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. We should do more to support this vital program and protect our fellow Americans.

As President Nixon said in support of his legislation creating LSC, "[W]e must provide a mechanism to overcome economic barriers to adequate legal assistance." On this 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation, we should recommit ourselves to the founding principle and continue to ensure that LSC can fulfill its critical mission through sufficient funding.

I commend LSC and its grantee programs for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel and for continuing its mission of equal justice for all.